

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 AF-10 ARA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /148 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7139

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL SEOUL 2065

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, KS, KN

SUBJECT: KOREAN ITEM IN 28 TH UNGA

BEGIN SUMMARY: EVIDENCE IS CLEAR THAT ROKG IS MOUNTING ALL- OUT EFFORT TO ACHIEVE POSTPONEMENT OF KOREAN ITEM DEBATE AGAIN IN 28 TH UNGA. TO THIS END, HIGH LEVEL ROKG MISSIONS ARE BEING SENT TO EUROPE, AFRICA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA NEXT WEEK. DESPITE ASSURANCES TO US THAT IT IS PREPARED TO BE FLEXIBLE IN ITS UN STRATEGY, ROKG DOES NOT INTEND TO DISCUSS ALTERNATIVES UNTIL PERHAPS JULY. NORTH KOREA'S STALLING IN S- N DIALOGUE WILL SUPPORT CASE IT IS MAKING INTERNATIONALLY THAT DESPITE S- N DIALOGUE THERE IS NO REDUCTION OF TENSIONS. FURTHER TO THIS, NORTH KOREANS ARGUE FOR DISCUSSION KOREAN ITEM BY UN WITH NK PRESENT AND THAT US FORCES IN KOREA ARE AN OBSTACLE TO REDUCTION OF TENSIONS AND PROGRESS IN THE DIALOGUE.

1. IT IS NOW ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT ROKG' STRATEGY FOR KOREAN ITEM IN 28 TH UNGA IS AGAIN POSTPONEMENT. THIS WAS ALREADY CLEAR ENOUGH FROM STATEMENTS MADE TO ME BY FONMIN AND PRIME MINISTER IN RECENT PRIOD AND IS NOW UNDERLINED BY SERIES OF MISSIONS LED BY TOP ROKG LEADERS WHICH ROKG IS FANNING OUT NEXT WEEK TO EUROPE, AFRICA AND ASIA ( SEE SEPTEL). REGRETTABLY WE SEE NO EVIDENCE THAT ROKG IS CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVES TO POSTPONEMENT DESPITE ASSURANCES

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WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM FONMIN AND OTHERS THAT ROKG INTENDS TO BE FLEXIBLE. IN REPLY TO MY QUESTION DURING CONVERSATION APRIL 4, FONMIN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MOFA DOES NOT INTEND TO TAKE UP POSSIBILITY OF ALTERNATIVES UNTIL AFTER RETURNS FROM HIGH LEVEL MISSIONS AND OTHER SOUNDINGS ARE IN, WHICH HE AGREED WOULD BE ABOUT JULY. PRIME MINISTER MADE SAME POINT TO ME SEPARATELY.

2. AT SAME TIME, FROM PYONGYANG MEDIA OUTPUT, FROM LINE THAT NUMEROUS NORTH KOREAN TRAVELLING MISSIONS ARE TAKING ABROAD, AND FROM NORTH KOREAN COMPORTMENT IN S- N DIALOGUE, WE GET CLEAR IMPRESSION NORTH KOREA IS DELIBERATELY STALLING IN THE DIALOGUE. WE BELIEVE THIS IS DIRECTED TOWARD SUPPORT OF NORTH KOREAN POLICY KEYED TO KOREAN ITEM DEBATE IN THE UN AND DEMAND FOR WITHDRAWAL OF US FORCES. THUS, NORTH KOREA IS MAKING THE CASE THAT DESPITE S- N DIALOGUE THERE IS NO REDUCTION OF TENSIONS IN KOREAN PENINSUAL. THIS IN TURN WILL SUPPORT A NORTH KOREAN CONTENTION THAT ( A ) KOREAN ITEM SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN UN FORUM WITH NK PRESENT, AND THAT ( B ) US FORCES IN KOREA CONSTITUTE A MAIN OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS IN THE DIALOGUE AND TO REDUCTION OF TENSIONS.

3. MOFA' S FAILURE TO PREPARE ANY ALTERNATIVES WHILE DECLARING ITS WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER ANY PROPOSALS US MAY WISH TO PREPARE SUGGESTS ROKG EFFORT TO MAINTAIN A US SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCCESSFUL DEFENSE OF ROK INTERESTS IN THE UN. WE WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE POSITION HERE WITH MOFA THAT CONTINGENCY PLANNING IS IMPORTANT WITHOUT SUGGESTING ANYTHING SPECIFIC. IT IS APPARENT, HOWEVER, THAT ROKG DOES NOT WISH TO ENGAGE IN REALISTIC EXAMINATION OF ALTERNATIVES, EITHER NOW OR LATER, UNLESS EVIDENCE IS CLEAR THAT POSTPONEMENT WILL NOT WORK.

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